

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 are amended. Claims 1, 8, and 12 are independent claims. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the Examiner for the indication that claim 8 is allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9-20¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,760 to Sato (hereafter "Sato") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534 to Anderson (hereafter "Anderson") and U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730 to Nagasaki et al. (hereafter "Nagasaki"). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

In the page 3 of the present Office Action, the Examiner admits that Sato and Anderson fail to disclose "reading the original data from an interchangeable recording medium prior to performing conversion." However, the Examiner relies on Nagasaki to remedy this deficiency. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

"...it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include [in Sato/Anderson] an interchangeable recording medium as taught by Nagasaki in order to allow the user to take many pictures at short intervals...[T]he original image data would be read out [from] an interchangeable recording medium and then selectively processed to create display image data as claimed (Office Action at page 3).

¹ Although the second paragraph of page 2 does not list claims 3 and 14 in this rejection, pages 4 and 6 seem to indicate that the Examiner intended to include these claims. Furthermore, the inclusion of claim 8 in this rejection seems to be erroneous in view of the Office Action Summary and page 8.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite reading original image data in a compressed format from the interchangeable medium. Claims 1 and 12 also recite that the original image data is in an expanded format when the necessary conversion is performed. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's proposed combination of Sato, Anderson, and Nagasaki fails to disclose this feature.

As noted above, the Examiner relies on Nagasaki to disclose the claimed feature of reading original image data from an interchangeable medium. Nagasaki teaches an electronic still camera in which the digital image signals generated by the image-pickup device 12 and A/D converter 16 are stored directly in the primary memory card 34. In col. 6, lines 16-23, Nagasaki discloses that:

“The digital image signals are **not processed at all (not compressed) before they are** supplied to the common bus line 18, and are then **stored at high speed into the memory card 34** every time the user pushes the shutter-releasing switch after he or she has pushed the single-picture mode switch, or as long as the user depresses the shutter-releasing switch after he or she has pushed the continuous photographing mode switch.” (emphasis added)

As noted by the Examiner, Nagasaki teaches that one of the features of its camera is to allow a user to take many pictures in a short interval. Nagasaki attributes this to the fact that the digital image signals are stored directly in the memory card 34 **before** any image processing (including **compression**) is performed. See col. 3, lines 7-16; col. 7, lines 27-55.

After the pictures have been taken, Nagasaki teaches that the camera enters a non-photographing mode during which the image signals are read from the memory card 34 and processed so that they are transformed into “appropriate” digital image signals. This processing includes Y-C separation, filtering, and **compression**. See col. 6, lines 31-54. Thus, it is clear that Nagasaki teaches that uncompressed image signals are read from the memory card 34 and processed in order to generate image data that is appropriate for display.

As such, Nagasaki fails to teach or suggest reading image data in a compressed format from the memory card in order to perform image processing. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of Sato, Anderson, and Nagasaki does not “read[] original image data in a compressed format from an interchangeable medium” in order to determine whether conversion is necessary and, if necessary, convert the original image data, as required by claims 1 and 12.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 6, 7, 9-11, and 13-20 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato, Anderson, and Nagasaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,067,029 to Takahashi (hereafter “Takahashi”). Applicants respectfully submit that Takahashi fails to remedy the deficiencies of the proposed Sato/Anderson/Nagasaki combination as set forth above in connection with independent claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that the teachings of Takahashi relied upon by the Examiner merely relate to the recording of image data on a recording medium, rather than the reading of image data.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

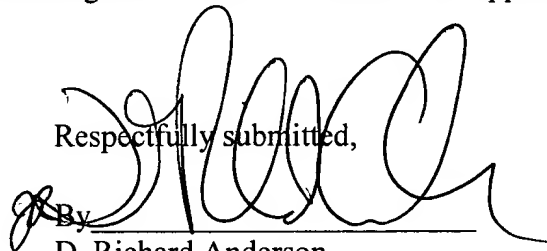
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the pending application, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Date: December 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Richard Anderson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant